THE LIVING WORDS OF A DYING CHILD:

BEING A

TRUE RELATION

Of some part of the Words that came forth, and were spoken by

JOSEPH BRIGGINS

On his Death-bed.

Being on the 26th day of the 4th Moneth called *June*, 1675. Aged 11 Years, Five Moneths, and 15. Dayes.

Out of the Mouth of Babes and Sucklings hast thou ordained strength, Psal. 8.2.

Printed in the Year, 1677.

TO THE

READERS

WHETHER

Children or others.

THis Youth was a very dutiful Child to his Parents, and patient, and ready to receive Instructions; never was known to resist his Father or Mothers Advice and Counsel, but always ready to obey their Commands, and minded good things, being very bashful, and ready to put himself forward to do any business to please his Parents or Relations; never

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ſullen nor dogged; and what he did it was with all his might faithfully in Obedience to a meek and quiet ſpirit, to the laſt minute. In the Time of his Health for Three Years laſt paſt, he uſed to go to hear at the Meetings of the People called Quakers, *and no where elſe, and was by rude Boyes ſcoffed at, and called a* Quaker. *He was a very manly, meek and ſober Child, not given to quarrel with any. What we have here related, that he ſpoke of the great Love of the Lord, both to his own ſoul, and to his people, is far ſhort of what he declared. His Departure hence was on the Third Day of the Fifth Moneth, 1675. at 7 in the morning, the 13th Day of his ſickneſs; in great ſtilneſs and patience he entered into Everlaſting Life.*

And

And We who were Eye and Ear Witneſſes of this following Relation, do teſtifie, that his Words were ſo in Verſe, and in ſuch a great Power they were expreſſed, indeed greater then We can declare.

We whoſe Names are ſubſcribed are Witneſſes for the Lord in this matter, beſides ſeveral others then preſent.

William Briggins, Heſter Briggins. } *his Father and Mother living in* Bartholomew-Cloſe, *in* London.

John Goodſon, *Chirurgeon, at the Chirurgeons Arms in* Bartholomew-Cloſe, *next neighbour.*

Margaret Adams *the Nurſe.*

Elizabeth Harford *the Maid.*

Mary *and* Elizabeth Meux *Lodgers in the Houſe.*

The VVonderful Sayings ſpoken by *Joſeph Briggins*, worthy to be minded.

ON *the 26th day of the fourth moneth, about the ſeventh hour in the Evening being (as we thought) very near death, after he had layen ſilent for about an hour, he began to appear full of exceeding great joy & pleaſantneſs, and his mouth was opened and he ſaid,* I ſhall praiſe the Lord; for he is only to be praiſed: *So he went on in Heavenly words in Prayer, to the admiration of the Nurſe & Maid that heard him; of all which they only could remember that he ſaid in admiration.*

Oh! I have never heard of any other God but thee, O my Holy One.

And the Nurſe offering him ſome Cordial to drink.

Nay, said he, I shall not eat nor drink until I have seen my Heavenly Father's Face in Glory.

And more and more he was changed, and filled with exceeding great Joy and Pleasantness, and said;

I have heard of thee, but now I see thee in Glory.

And many Heavenly sayings and expressions came from him; the Maid and Nurse did think he had been near going away: He hearing them speak so, He earnestly said, Pray call up my Father and Mother, for I have something to say to them concerning what I have seen of my Heavenly Father's Glory.

So he went on uttering many Heavenly Sayings and Exhortations in sound Judgment; his Mother was called up, and seeing him so greatly changed in so short a time, she wept, and ran down stairs and called his Father, and several People that were there at that time, and when he heard them come up, he joyfully called out,

Father, Father, Oh Father; *and held out his Hand, and shook his Father by the Hand, and said.*

Oh

Oh! pure and glorious is my Saviour which hath appeared to me, and hath taken me into his Kingdom: Oh! mine eye hath seen his Glory.

His Words were expreſſed in ſo great Wiſdom and Power, that we were all amazed at them, being alſo in Meeter for the ſpace of about one hour and a half praiſing God, and admiring him, and his glorious Power, and Holy Order of glorified Saints and Holy Angels, and of the Glorious Day of God revealed, ſaid he. Some of which many Words he gave forth to us are as followeth, viz.

O moſt Glorious God, great and wonderful things are brought to paſs by thy own pure holy Power, by which thou haſt revealed thy Son unto us thy Miniſters, O my King, O let all People fear and ſtand in awe of thy Power, by which thou haſt gathered many out of their ſinful wayes, into pure Obedience to thee: Oh, thou haſt given us a living Knowledge of thee. O pure, glorious, holy God, let thy Life reach unto all my dear Friends, and keep them that know thee firm and ſted-

faſt

fast upon thy Holy Foundation Christ Jesus my King, whose appearance is very glorious at this day, and of his Government no end is to be; but Thousands of Thousands, Millions of Thousands shall come to see, and be made with me, partakers of his glorious bright shining-day.

Of which many Words more he spake which cannot be remembred.

Again he said, O Glory, Glory, Everlasting Praises be given to thee by me, and all we that know thee; O I have much to say for thee.

He was asked if he knew what he had said? his answer was, I have preached the Gospel to you.

His Father desired all present to hearken and mind what he said, and spake some of his words to them; but he was grieved, and said:

O be silent all flesh and stand by, for we that have seen thy pure mighty Glory can preach this Gospel which is thy power, and the day comes on apace, that all that undertakes to speak of thee, and obeyes not thy Power, by this Power they shall be

be brought to Silence: There are many Ways and Baptisms in the world; but Oh thou Pure, Holy, Holy one, we thy Ministers have known thy Spiritual Baptism into Christ Iesus my Lord, by which the living water have we known and felt. Oh it is indeedexceeding pure, by which we have been washed from all our Sins. Oh my King thou wast slain, and by the virtue of thy pure Blood, we have this gain. Oh that all may wait continually upon thee, that they may be kept from all the deceiveable wayes of this world. Oh mind and serve the Lord in your day; for his Holy Truth revealed in you is the Way in which you must Wait and Obey. Oh! Glorious are the Beams of the Sun that hath shined into my Heart, in which I have seen the Glory of his Day, although in the grave shortly this Body is to lie. But Oh Glory, Glory, and Halelujahs my Soul doth sing to thee O my King, for the Redemption of my Soul, that shall never dye; but in Praises pure for ever shall endure; a living taste thou hast given to me most sure. O my Father and Mother; all my Friends

which

which to me are dear; yet a Glory I have seen most bright; in which I shortly must appear; He is my King and Leader which is my Saviour most dear; O exceeding glorious is this Holy Place where Saints and Angels in bright shining Glory behold his pure Face: Oh All obey his pure Truth in your day.

That you may feel the Virtue of his Grace;
For mortal man is but to run his Race.

And woe to them that shall not Obey his Grace; for such do not feel his Virtue, nor ever shall see his Face.

Some were whispering together towards the further end of the room, at which he seemed to be grieved, and said these Words, pointing with his Finger.

Here is a Spirit speaks in this room that is not of God.

He was so much spent, he could hardly speak, and bid the People that stood by stand further that he might have a little Aire; he was offered something to drink, he said, he would

ould not receive it; a little after he was pressed again to receive it,

No, *said he,* If I should I should tell a lye, and gave a Sign to put it away, *and said,*

Oh the Sons of God have better refreshment then a Cup of cold water. *And so lay silent a while, but again spake as followeth:* The Lord hath taken me into his Kingdom, He hath discovered the fresh Springs of his Love to my Soul. O all that know the Lord, be obedient to his Power, and he will discover himself more to you, and you shall know more; Thousands, Thousands, Millons will the Lord call. O that my Kindred after the Flesh might come to know the Lord.

Again after some time of Silence he said,

O that my Fellows, my Companions might know the Lord; they shall know the Lord, they shall follow me: Here be some stand by me that do not know the Lord.

Which he repeated again, and again, and then said,

What

What wait you to hear? What do you all ſtand here to hear?

His Father anſwered him, they ſtand to hear what the Lord will ſpeak by thee.

He ſaid, No, all that are here do not wait to hear the Lord ſpeak; you do not all know the Lord, you think you know him; but you know him but in the Notion, but when you come to dye, you ſhall know, that you did not know the Lord.

When ſome ſpake of his being light headed, and as though he ſhould ſpeak he knew not what, he ſeemed grieved, and earneſtly ſaid,

I had rather be torn alive by Dogs, then that an Impure or Unholy Word ſhould come out of my Mouth.

Some that knew him very well wondred to hear him ſpeak as he did, and ſaid, they had never heard ſuch words come from him before; he ſaid,

The Lord hath fully made that known to my Soul, which I had ſome feeling of before.

On the next day about the Seventh Hour in the morning, he was very earneſt in Prayer ſoftly to himſelf; but ſome words were heard, viz.

O let all that know not thy pure Truth come and receive it ſaith my Soul.

And ſung of the Olive Tree, and the Fruit thereof, which he had fed on, and of his Refreſhment he had thereby.

He was asked what he meant by the Olive Tree? He ſaid, The Tree of Life.

And many more Heavenly Sayings he uttered before he departed to his Everlaſting Reſt.

THE END.